[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The rates of *kolevila* vary according to the species of timber to be worked down and the distance of the felling areas from the depôts. They average, at present, from 8 to 14 annas per cubic foot.

(2) Yes. There was an increase in recent years. The increase ranges from 1 to 2 annas per cubic foot. In 1098, however, there was a decrease in most places.

Irregularities in re Extraction and Sale of Timber.

171. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether all contracts for the extraction of timber and all sales of timber were properly advertised and whether tenders were called for during the last two years; and

(2) whether it is not a common practice that, subsequent to the opening of tenders, statements are recorded from certain tenderers and others and that contracts are given to them by private negotiation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Contracts are settled by negotiation only when tenderers are not forthcoming or when the rates tendered by them are found unacceptable.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state what they mean by the words "found unacceptable"? Do they mean that the tender is not sufficiently low or the tenderer has not got sufficient security?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 'Unacceptable' is what cannot be accepted in the interests of the department. That might be due to a variety of reasons.

Private Timber Depôts of Supply Contractors.

172. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number and names of timber-supply contractors who own private sale depôts in the neighbourhood of Government sale depôts;

(2) the number and names of such contractors who have their private sale depôts at places higher up the routes along which timber is floated down to Government depôts; and

(3) whether the proximity of such private depôts does not adversely affect the sale at Government depôts?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2). No supply contractor of the department has any private sale depôt near Government sale depôts or anywhere higher up

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly